United Nations A/59/6 (Prog. 2)

General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 April 2004

Original: English

Fifty-ninth session
Item 112 of the preliminary list*
Programme planning

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007

Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 2
Political affairs

Contents

	Page
Overall orientation	2
Subprogramme 1. Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts	3
Subprogramme 2. Electoral assistance	3
Subprogramme 3. Security Council affairs	4
Subprogramme 4. Decolonization	5
Subprogramme 5. Question of Palestine	6
Subprogramme 6. Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process	7
Legislative mandates	8

* A/59/50 and Corr.1.

04-30727 (E) 300404

Overall orientation

2.1 The overall objective of the programme is to maintain international peace and security by assisting States involved in disputes or conflict to resolve their differences peacefully, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the resolutions of the Organization, wherever possible, by preventing conflicts from arising through preventive diplomacy and peacemaking. The direction of the programme is provided in the pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly and the mandates of the Security Council, which has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Within the Secretariat, substantive responsibility for the programme is vested in the Department of Political Affairs.

2.2 The strategy in meeting the programme's objectives is designed around six subprogrammes, which includes the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO), as a separate subprogramme. The activities to be implemented relate to: early warning; preventive diplomacy; peacemaking and post-conflict peace-building; electoral assistance; the provision of substantive support to policy-making organs, such as the Security Council and its subsidiary bodies, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People; and the role of the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process. These activities constitute the core functions of the Department of Political Affairs and together represent interdependent and complementary components of a comprehensive conflict-prevention, conflict-management and peace-building approach.

2.3 The Department will continue to strive to reinforce the Organization's capacity for early warning, good offices and non-military measures to prevent disputes from escalating into conflicts, as well as to resolve conflicts that have erupted, while fully respecting the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Member States and the principles of non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State as well as respecting the principles of consent, which is an essential element for the success of such efforts. The Department will also endeavour to enhance its capacity with regard to the political aspects of peace-building, as approved by the relevant intergovernmental bodies.

2.4 In its capacity as the lead department on the subject of terrorism, the Department of Political Affairs will work with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and with other relevant Departments within the Secretariat in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).

2.5 Special attention will also be given to incorporating a gender perspective into the work of the programme, in accordance with relevant resolutions of the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

Subprogramme 1
Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts

Objective of the Organization: To maintain international peace and security through prevention, control and resolution of conflicts by peaceful means.

Expected accomplishment of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
Improved capability of the international community to identify and address conflict situations and to participate in their resolution	(i) Increased percentage of conflict situations addressed through peaceful means (ii) 100 per cent response to requests of Member States and regional organizations for preventive action (iii) Number of Member States in which post-conflict peace-building activities are carried out

Strategy

2.6 Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the regional divisions, namely the Africa I and Africa II Divisions, the Americas and Europe Division, and the Asia and the Pacific Division, which are assisted by the Policy Planning Unit. In order to attain the objective of this subprogramme, the Department will promote a more effective and cohesive response to help prevent, control and resolve conflicts and to address post-conflict peace-building challenges facing countries emerging from crisis or conflict by: (a) responding in a timely manner to new conflict situations; (b) providing timely and accurate information, analysis and policy options; (c) formulating recommendations on measures that could be undertaken by the United Nations system; (d) making available, and providing substantive support to, the Secretary-General's good offices aimed at facilitating peaceful outcomes of sensitive situations in various regions; (e) enhancing capacity for cooperation with regional and subregional organizations; (f) providing substantive support and guidance to special political and peace-building missions; and (g) strengthening the Department's capacity and expertise in order to address more effectively challenges for peace and security.

Subprogramme 2
Electoral assistance

Objective of the Organization: To enhance the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections in Member States requesting assistance and in accordance with relevant decisions of the Security Council and the General Assembly.

Expected accomplishment of the Secretariat	Indicator of achievement
Enhanced capacity of Member States to organize elections in a transparent and accountable way	Increase in number of national electoral management bodies fully capable of organizing and conducting elections

Strategy

2.7 Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Electoral Assistance Division, which provides the leading role in all United Nations electoral assistance activities. To achieve the objective of this subprogramme, the Electoral Assistance Division will provide international expertise in a timely, coordinated and effective manner for the organization and conduct of electoral processes to requesting Member States, including key guidance and support in the context of peace negotiations, peacekeeping and peace-building missions. The Division will assess the conditions and the needs for the holding of credible elections in the requesting countries. On the basis of those assessments, the Division will formulate strategic responses and provide guidance on their execution, including technical cooperation and expert advice on the establishment and enhancement of electoral management bodies. In doing so, it will establish partnerships with national and international bodies, within and outside the United Nations system, in order to foster the consistent application of international standards. It will develop technical parameters and best practices in the field. The Division will also provide guidance on the establishment of electoral components in peace operations and on the organization of elections based on a mandate. The Division, in compliance with resolutions from the General Assembly or the Security Council, will support United Nations electoral observers when deployed.

Subprogramme 3
Security Council affairs

Objective of the Organization: To facilitate the deliberations and effective decision-making by the Security Council and its subsidiary organs.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Meetings conducted in a timely and procedurally correct manner	(a) The degree of satisfaction expressed by members of the Security Council, as well as the wider United Nations membership, with the services provided by the Security Council Affairs Division
(b) Improved access to information relating to the work of the Security Council and its subsidiary organs	(b) Increase in the number of pages viewed of the online *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* and increased number of times that the Security Council web site is accessed
(c) Decisions of the Security Council and its subsidiary organs are appropriately followed-up	(c) Establishment, under Security Council sanctions committees, of monitoring mechanisms within the time frame stipulated by Security Council resolutions

Strategy

2.8 Responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Security Council Affairs Division, which will provide advice and substantive services to the Security Council and its subsidiary organs, particularly the sanctions committees and the Counter-Terrorism Committee, informal working groups and the Military Staff Committee. Advice and substantive services will be provided through: timely issuance of parliamentary documentation and communications; effective coordination of meetings; provision of guidance, in accordance with the Charter, the Council's provisional rules of procedure, Council decisions and past practice, to the Security Council and wider United Nations membership; provision of support to expert monitoring groups and panels; planning and organization of missions by Security Council members and chairpersons of its subsidiary organs; research and analysis, including with respect to the implementation, effectiveness and impact of mandatory measures or sanctions imposed by the Council; advocacy and advice regarding the concept of "smarter" sanctions; and provision of familiarization sessions for new members of the Security Council with respect to the evolving procedure, practice and working methods of the Council and its subsidiary organs, particularly the sanctions committees.

Subprogramme 4
Decolonization

Objective of the Organization: To complete the decolonization process in the remaining 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
The Special Committee and the General Assembly will be able to carry out their decolonization mandates and make progress in the decolonization process of the 16 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories	At least 95 per cent of parliamentary documents submitted within deadlines

Strategy

2.9 Responsibility for this subprogramme lies with the Decolonization Unit, which will provide support to the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to the Colonial Countries and Peoples as well as to the General Assembly. The issues related to decolonization are guided by Chapters XI to XIII of the Charter, as well as by the principles of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV).

2.10 The Special Committee and the General Assembly will continue to examine the situation with regard to political, economic and social developments in all territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination and to seek suitable means to implement the Declaration in accordance with the Charter and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. The Special Committee will continue to improve cooperation with the administering Powers at all stages of the decolonization process. The Committee will examine the views of the

representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. It will also organize its regional annual seminars in the Caribbean and the Pacific, as well as visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Committee will continue to enlist worldwide support for decolonization and formulate proposals with respect to the issues on its agenda and report thereon to the General Assembly.

2.11 In support of the above-mentioned legislative bodies, especially the Special Committee, advice and substantive assistance will be provided to the Special Committee, including: in its deliberations on the situation in the remaining 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories at the annual sessions; during the preparation and conduct of its seminars held alternately in the Caribbean and the Pacific; during visiting missions; and in any other activity carried out to implement the mandated programme of work of the Committee. Assistance will also be provided in improving the Committee's cooperation with the administering Powers, maintaining contacts with the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and developing relations with the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, aimed at achieving further progress in decolonization and bringing a complete end to colonialism. Supportive actions will include closely following the developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, conducting research and preparing working papers, reports and analytical and briefing materials. In addition, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information, information material, including publications and audio and visual programmes related to decolonization will be prepared and disseminated to a wide audience, with a view to increasing the awareness of the international community with regard to the decolonization issues as well as in mobilizing international support for the achievement of the complete eradication of colonialism.

Subprogramme 5
Question of Palestine

Objective of the Organization: To enable the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Through the work of the Division for Palestinian Rights, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People will generate heightened international awareness of the question of Palestine, as well as international support for the rights of the Palestinian people and the peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine.	(i) Sustained level of dialogue, engagement and support from the international community for the programme's objectives (ii) Increased number of civil society organizations accredited to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (iii) Increase in the number of pages viewed on the United Nations web site on the question of Palestine

Strategy

2.12 Substantive responsibility for implementing the subprogramme is vested in the Division for Palestinian Rights. The question of Palestine was first considered by the General Assembly in 1947. By its resolution 3376 (XXX) of 10 November 1975, the Assembly established the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. Substantive and secretariat support will be provided to the Committee in its deliberations and its annual programmes of work. Assistance will also be provided to the Committee in promoting a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine in accordance with all relevant United Nations resolutions, as well as the full and effective implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian peace agreements. Assistance will also be provided to the Committee in mobilizing international support and assistance for the Palestinian people, including technical cooperation, such as an annual training programme for officials of the Palestinian Authority. The peace process is expected to result in a negotiated settlement of all outstanding issues. Supportive action by the United Nations will continue until all aspects of the question of Palestine are resolved in a satisfactory manner in accordance with international legitimacy. Under the auspices of the Committee, thematic international meetings and conferences will be convened to increase awareness of the various aspects of the question of Palestine and to promote dialogue among the parties concerned, including Governments, intergovernmental organizations, entities of the United Nations system and civil society organizations. In addition, and for the same purposes, under the guidance of the Committee, informational materials and resources on the question of Palestine will be developed and updated, including publications, the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine (UNISPAL) and the United Nations web site.

Subprogramme 6
Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process

Objective of the Organization: To advance the Middle East Peace Process towards a peaceful and lasting solution to the Middle East conflict.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Participants will re-engage in taking parallel steps towards a lasting peace	(a) Increased frequency of negotiations between parties involved in the conflict
(b) Mobilization of resources for improving the socio-economic conditions of the Palestinian people	(b) Increase in level of resources made available for improving the socio-economic conditions of the Palestinian people
(c) Coordinated response to the humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people	(c) Number of joint projects and activities carried out by United Nations system organizations

Strategy

2.13 The Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO) was established in accordance with resolution 48/213 of 21 December 1993, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure the coordinated work of the United Nations system for an adequate response to the needs of the Palestinian people and to mobilize financial, technical, and economic assistance, and with resolution 49/88 of 16 December 1994, in which the Assembly welcomed the appointment of the Special Coordinator. The Special Coordinator serves as the United Nations focal point for the Middle East peace process, including the socio-economic aspects of the peace process and related United Nations development assistance for Jordan, Lebanon, the Occupied Palestinian Territories and the Syrian Arab Republic.

2.14 The Special Coordinator, through exploration with relevant actors, will develop ways to support the Middle East peace process and provide a coordinated United Nations response to the humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people. This will include responding to requests from negotiating parties and Member States for assistance related to the diplomatic and socio-economic aspects of the peace process. The Special Coordinator will also develop and provide recommendations on diplomatic, legal, socio-economic and security issues as part of United Nations diplomatic input to the Middle East talks and related consultations, in close coordination with relevant United Nations agencies and programmes. The Special Coordinator will continue to play a leading role in both formal and informal coordination mechanisms and will provide political and humanitarian guidance and support to United Nations agencies and programmes. Greater focus will be given to the linkage between the political processes and the social and economic situation that underpins and strengthens these processes.

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 1
Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts

Charter of the United Nations, in particular Article 99

General Assembly resolutions

47/120 A	An Agenda for Peace: preventive diplomacy and related matters
47/120 B	An Agenda for Peace
52/12 A and B	Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform
55/161	Observer status for the Economic Community of Central African States in the General Assembly
57/5	Elimination of unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion
57/26	Prevention and peaceful settlement of disputes
57/32	Observer status for the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the General Assembly

57/35	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of South-East Asian Nations
57/37	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum
57/40	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Community of Central African States
57/41	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community
57/42	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference
57/43	Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie
57/44	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community
57/46	Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States
57/47	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union
57/48	Cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union
57/156	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe
57/157	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States
57/296	Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa
57/298	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
57/337	Prevention of armed conflict
58/7	Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba
58/10	Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic
58/21	Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine
58/81	Measures to eliminate international terrorism
58/85	Observer status for the GUUAM [Georgia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and the Republic of Moldova] in the General Assembly
58/86	Observer status for the East African Community in the General Assembly
58/109	Question of Western Sahara
58/239	The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

58/247 Situation of human rights in Myanmar

Security Council resolutions on mandates established by the Council for questions relating to the maintenance of international peace and security

1196 (1998) The causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (regarding the importance of strengthening the effectiveness of arms embargoes as a means to diminish the availability of arms with which to pursue armed conflicts)

1197 (1998) The causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (regarding the need for the United Nations to provide support for regional and subregional initiatives and the strengthening of coordination between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the area of conflict prevention and the maintenance of peace)

1208 (1998) The causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (regarding the maintenance of the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements)

1209 (1998) The causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (regarding the importance of stemming the illicit arms flows to and in Africa)

1318 (2000) Millennium Summit declaration of the Security Council on ensuring an effective role for the Council in the maintenance of international peace and security, particularly in Africa

1366 (2001) Prevention of armed conflict

Subprogramme 2
Electoral assistance

General Assembly resolution

58/180 Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization

Subprogramme 3
Security Council affairs

Charter of the United Nations, in particular Articles 1, 7, 12 (2), 15, 24, 28, 29, 30, 45, 46, 47, and 50.

General Assembly resolutions

686 (VII) Ways and means for making the evidence of customary international law more readily available

55/222 Pattern of conferences

58/248 Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

Security Council resolutions and decisions pertaining to the establishment and mandates of the subsidiary organs created by the Council under the terms of Article 29 of the Charter of the United Nations

1373 (2001) Measures to eliminate international terrorism

1535 (2004) Revitalization of the Counter-Terrorism Committee

Subprogramme 4
Decolonization

General Assembly resolutions

1514 (XV) Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

1541 (XV) Principles which should guide Members in determining whether or not an obligation exists to transmit the information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter

1654 (XVI) The situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

2621 (XXV) Programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

52/220 Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999

55/146 Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

58/102 Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

58/103 Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

58/104 Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

58/105 Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

58/106 Question of New Caledonia

58/107 Question of Tokelau

58/108 Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands

58/109 Question of Western Sahara

58/110 Dissemination of information on decolonization

58/111	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples
58/511	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)
58/526	Question of Gibraltar

Subprogramme 5
Question of Palestine

General Assembly resolutions

3376 (XXX)	Question of Palestine
32/40 B	Question of Palestine
34/65 D	Question of Palestine
38/58 B	Question of Palestine
46/74 B	Question of Palestine
58/18	Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People
58/19	Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat

Subprogramme 6
Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO)

General Assembly resolutions

48/213	Assistance to the Palestinian people
49/88	Middle East peace process